

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 03352 031843Z

43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ARAE-00 /069 W

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O 031836Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7482

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 03352

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AO FR BR

SUBJECT: REPORTED FRENCH/BRAZILIAN EFFORT TO RESOLVE
ANGOLAN CONFLICT

REF: STATE 026067

1. WE ASKED REFTEL QUESTION OF ALAIN BRIOTTET, FOREIGN MINISTER'S STAFF ASSISTANT WHO ACCOMPANIED SAUVAGNARGUES TO BRASILIA. BRIOTTET SAID UPI DESPATCH EXAGGERATES WHAT ACTUALLY WAS DISCUSSED ABOUT ANGOLA BETWEEN SAUVAGNARGUES AND BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER.

2. DISCUSSION WAS INITIATED BY SAUVAGNARGUES, WHO QUESTIONED WISDOM OF BRAZIL'S EARLY DECISION TO RECOGNIZE MPLA AND MAINTAIN AN EMBASSY IN LUANDA ACCREDITED TO MPLA. SAUVAGNARGUES ARGUED THAT BRAZIL'S DECISION SERVED ONLY TO HARDEN MPLA ATTITUDE TOWARD NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. SAUVAGNARGUES WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN CHANGING AZEREDO'S MIND ON THIS ISSUE, BUT DID OBTAIN HIS AGREEMENT TO OPPOSE ALL FOREIGN INTERVENTION, AND TO SUPPORT A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION AMONG ALL THE FACTIONS. THERE WAS NO RPT NO AGREEMENT TO TAKE ANY JOINT DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES WITH RESPECT TO ANGOLA.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 03352 031843Z

3. AFP DESPATCH FROM BRAZIL WAS SLIGHTLY MORE NUANCED

THAN UPI STORY. AFP WIRE SAID "SAUVAGNARGUES SAID THERE IS A CONVERGENCE OF VIEWS BETWEEN FRANCE AND BRAZIL ON SEVERAL MAJOR PROBLEMS OF THE MOMENT, CITING AMONG OTHERS THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND AFRICA. ON THIS LATTER POINT, SAUVAGNARGUES IMPLIED THE POSSIBILITY OF A JOINT DIPLOMATIC ACTION TO TRY AND SOLVE THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM. OUR TWO COUNTRIES, SAUVAGNARGUES SAID, WANT THE SOLUTION TO THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM TO BE AN AFRICAN SOLUTION, EXCLUDING ALL FOREIGN INTERFERENCE OR IMPLANTATIONS, AND IT IS NOT EXCLUDED THAT WE MIGHT CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORTS IN ORDER TO TRY TO MOVE THE SITUATION IN THIS DIRECTION."

4. COMMENT: SAUVAGNARGUES MAY HAVE HAD SOME VAGUE IDEA OF A POSSIBLE JOINT FRANCO-BRAZILIAN INITIATIVE WHEN HE WAS STILL IN BRASILIA, BUT IT WAS APPARENTLY DISCARDED BY THE TIME HE RETURNED HOME. HIS ASSISTANT, IN ANY EVENT, HAS THE FEELING THAT THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WAS NOT VERY RECEPTIVE TO ANY CHANGE OF POSTURE ON THE ANGOLAN ISSUE.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LOBBYING, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS03352
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760040-1062
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760287/aaaacyyu.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 26067
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED FRENCH/BRAZILIAN EFFORT TO RESOLVE ANGOLAN CONFLICT
TAGS: PFOR, AO, FR, BR, (SAUVAGNARGUES, JEAN), (AZEREDO DA SILVEIRA, ANTONIO F)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006